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Dear Annette,

Thankyou for advising me about poor Ian. So it was quite a shock to me to learn of his premature death.

Annette, I am afraid I have to leave everything related to his demise to others to manage, which really means you as you and I are his only blood relations, and I suspect he had few friends. In January of this year I began a series of 3 hospital stays for the treatment of a condition known as Non Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL). I came home last week having spent the last 5 months in a poor condition but slowly improving. The chemotherapy treatment I am receiving will gradually fix the problem, but the prognosis is that for the remainder of year 2010 I will be strictly confined to the home. I am having some debate as to which of the NHL or the chemo treatment is the worse experience. For a man who all his life was active, it is so frustrating that I can no longer carry out simple tasks like changing a light globe or putting out the garbage bin.

I know nothing of Ianspecifically other than as soon as possible establish contact with a dependable solicitor. I also suggest that you and I keep an open line of communication, because for example whereas I may not be able to organise a garage sale of his hobbies (if such exists), I am likely to be of use in thinking through issues such as probate, gifts to local charity, disposal of his books etc. On the assumption that you and I are the key and only players in this event, an important point is that you should keep a record of expenses for us to review periodically.

Now, having written the foregoing, I have just had a phone call from Matthew bringing me up to date with your telephone conversation this morning. And this brings me to the point, do you use the internet? Email communication is so much quicker than letters.

If Matthew & Jenny can get to Brisbane for the funeral, you will find that both are very switched on people, and you can depend on comments they make and opinions expressed.

Cheers.